

X \*Monteith, William John—b. Broadalbin, N. Y., June 16, 1808; U. C., 1830; (3 grad.); ord. Pby. Madison, Apr. 22, '36; p. Port William Ky., '36-37; p. Mayfield 1st ch., N. Y., '38-56; vice pres. and prof. C. C. W., '56-58; s. s. Cong. ch., Genesee, Wis., '59-64; org. and s. s. 1st Presb. ch., Ottawa, '64; s. s. Albany, Or., and prin. Coll. Inst., '64-71; Lapwai, Idaho Terr., '71-76; s. s. Lewiston, '72-74; d. Lapwai, Idaho Terr., Aug. 29, 1876.  
*Princeton Theol. Sem. Cat. 1874*

*class 1532*

WILLIAM J. MONTEITH, 1830, of Mayfield, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society. Philomathean Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1876)

LEWISTON, IDAHO  
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# The Rev. William J. Monteith Was Founder Of First Presbyterian Church At Lewiston

When Dr. John R. Howard, president of Lewis-Clark College, Portland, delivers a union Thanksgiving message Wednesday night at 7:30 at the Lewiston High School auditorium, he will be reviving a historical connection between the city of Lewiston and the Oregon school. The service will be sponsored by the Lewiston Ministerial Ass'n.

The first president of Albany College, founded as the Albany Collegiate Institute in 1865, was the Rev. William J. Monteith. Mr. Monteith also founded Lewiston's first Protestant church

their home town of Broadalbin, N.Y., to form the name. Thomas and Walter donated the land for a proposed college and with the Rev. Dr. Edward R. Geary founded the Albany Collegiate Institute. Mr. Monteith was named as first president. He also founded the Presbyterian Church at Albany and served as its pastor. The college was moved to Portland about 40 years ago, and later renamed Lewis-Clark College.

### Admitted To Presbytery

Mr. Monteith was admitted to the Presbytery of Oregon Jan. 16, 1866, after passing an oral examination in church government, didactic and polemic theology and experimental religion. He was named moderator of the Oregon Presbytery June 27, 1867, and was present July 24, 1868, when the Rev. Henry Harmon Spalding, who founded the first mission among the Nez Perce Indians in 1836, was received into membership.

On Dec. 24, 1868, he was named commissioner from Oregon to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

Sometime in 1871, Mr. Monteith moved to Lapwai, joining his son, John B. Monteith, who was Indian agent under President U.S. Grant.

Mr. Monteith began holding services at Lewiston soon after his arrival. The first issue of the Idaho Signal, an early-day Lewiston newspaper, March 9, 1872, carried a notice:

"Rev. Mr. Monteith will hold Divine Service at the courthouse at 11 o'clock a.m."

(the Presbyterian) in 1873.

Unlike most of his counterparts in the religious activity of the Pacific Northwest in the 1800s, Mr. Monteith was an elderly man before he moved west. When he joined his brothers, Thomas and Walter, at Albany, Ore., in 1865, he was 64 years old, and had a long history of Christian service behind him.

He was born at Broadalbin, N.Y. June 16, 1801. He was graduated from Union College in New York State in 1830 and attended the Princeton Theological Seminar from 1832 to 1835. After his marriage to the former Margaret Foote Oct. 14, 1835, he served as a pastor at Port William, Ky., Mayfield, N. Y., and Genesee, Wis. He was a professor at Carroll College, Waukesha, Wis., from 1856 to 1858, and organized the Presbyterian Church at Ottawa, Wis., in 1864.

Mr. Monteith came west by way of the Isthmus of Panama. His two brothers had founded and platted the town of Albany, using the last five letters of

These notices continued until 1873, when an item said:

"The Rev. W. J. Monteith has organized a Presbyterian Church in this town. This is the first Protestant church organized in northern Idaho and the first Presbyterian Church in the Territory of Idaho."

The Presbytery of Oregon met for its first, and only, meeting within the boundaries of Idaho, at Lapwai in May, 1873. The minutes noted:

"The Rev. W. J. Monteith announced that he had organized on March 14, 1873, the Presbyterian Church at Lewiston, Idaho Ty, consisting of eight members, which was accordingly received and ordered to be enrolled as the first Presbyterian Church of Lewiston."

The indefatigable Mr. Monteith was 69 at the time.

The same meeting of the Oregon Presbytery authorized Mr. Monteith, Mr. Spalding and the Rev. George Ainslie to organize an Indian mission at Lapwai into a full-fledged church. Mr. Monteith, Mr. Ainslie and Chief Lawyer of the Nez Perces were authorized to organize the Indian Mission at Kamiah into a church.

### No Church Erected

No church building was erected for the Lewiston church. Mr. Monteith preached either in the school or courthouse. In 1876, he was appointed to convene the representatives of the Presbyterian churches of Idaho to form the Presbytery of Idaho. He was asked to preach the opening sermon.

But before this was accomplished, Mr. Monteith died at Lapwai Aug. 29, 1876. He and his son, John B. Monteith, the Indian agent, are buried side by side in the Spalding Cemetery. Close by are the graves of the Rev. and Mrs. Spalding.

Charles Monteith, another son of Mr. Monteith, later served as Indian agent and was active in the affairs of the Lewiston Presbyterian Church for many years.

Mr. Monteith's interest in the Albany Collegiate Institute continued until the time of his death. The records of the Presbytery of Oregon have numerous references to his active participation in the affairs of the school.

William John Monteith AB. 1830

1830  
F.B.  
William John Monteith